

does it provide funds to carry out other new, federally imposed duties. I must admit I'm a bit perplexed. I thought my Republican colleagues had committed not to impose costly new burdens on state and local governments without compensating them for their expense.

Second, the bill could still preempt state laws that give the consumer greater protection. Although, under certain circumstances, the amendment before us lets the states set the percentage of value loss that will define what a salvage vehicle is, this bill could still preempt state laws that provide greater consumer protections in other areas of salvage vehicle title branding.

Third, the bill gives the Department of Transportation authority to issue regulations covering all aspects of vehicle titling by the states. That may be more than needed to accomplish the bill's stated purpose, which is to require title branding for salvage vehicles nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, the National Association of Attorneys General has opposed this legislation, as has a broad-based coalition of consumer groups. Among the consumer groups opposing the bill are: the Consumer Federation of America, Public Citizen, Consumers Union, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Clearly, there are legitimate theft prevention and consumer protection issues involved in the way the states title motor vehicles. I am not opposed to addressing these in a prudent and careful manner which respects the rights of the states.

I, therefore, suggest strongly that this bill simply needs more work and that it should not be enacted into law in its present form. This legislation seeks to address important public policy goals. However, we should be careful that our solution to these public policy concerns does not create new problems that we are not prepared to deal with.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of S. 2432, the Assistive Technology Act of 1998.

Assistive technologies have dramatically improved the quality of life for thousands of people in Hawaii and millions around the country. In addition to increasing the range of physical functions a person is capable of, assistive technologies provide psychological benefits increasing self esteem and empowering individuals with independence.

The Assistive Technology Act authorizes a range of programs designed to eliminate barriers preventing maximum utilization of Assistive Technologies. In addition to grants for public awareness, promotion, outreach and research, S. 2432, provides for programs that would encourage various segments of the community to become involved in assistive technology efforts.

I am particularly pleased that this bill contains specific provisions for outreach activities in rural and impoverished urban areas and for children and older individuals.

I am also delighted that S. 2432 authorizes alternative financing mechanisms including: loan guarantee or insurance programs, low-interest loan funds and interest buy-down programs; to help individuals with disabilities and their families to purchase assistive technology devices.

For many individuals with disabilities, assistive technologies means freedom and independence. What most of us take for granted.

I support the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 and urge its immediate passage.

RECOGNITION OF EMMA UDOVICH INDUCTED INTO THE TEXAS SENIORS HALL OF FAME

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Emma Udovich, of El Paso, as a recent inductee of the Texas Seniors Hall of Fame. Emma was honored on September 22, 1998 at the opening ceremonies of the state games in Temple, Texas. At 74 she has won a roomful of medals for her athletic endeavors.

In 1986 Emma Udovich heard about the Senior Games over the radio in El Paso, she entered two cycling events and won two gold medals. Emma did not begin competing until she was in her sixties. In the next 13 years she found herself entering over 14 venues in the Senior Games as well as all 6 national Senior Games all over the Country.

Among her accomplishments Emma boasts the following titles: the first woman to be named El Paso Senior Games; Athlete of the Year (1994), Broke Senior national games; cycling record in mile race (1991), Lubbock Sports Classic; Outstanding Woman Athlete (1997), and Emma has won more than 200 gold medals among her 300 awards in senior games competition since 1986.

I am proud to recognize my fellow El Pasoan, Emma Udovich, for her remarkable accomplishments. Emma is a role model for all of us, at 61 she found her calling in athletic competition and pursued her dream. Today Emma has realized that dream through hard work, perseverance and the love of athletic competition. She is a beacon of hope for us all, and shows us that it is never too late to pursue your dreams.

HONORING ELEANOR GARLISI FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS HEAD NURSE IN THE OFFICE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, US CAP- ITOL

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eleanor Garlisi and her six years of service as the Head Nurse in the Office of Attending Physician of the US Capitol.

On November 3, Nurse Garlisi will retire from the Office of Attending Physician. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Nurse Garlisi for her years of service to this body

and for making sure that all of my distinguished colleagues have had their shots.

During her tenure as Head Nurse, Eleanor has done everything from educating her patients on how to improve their health to providing emergency care for members, staff, and visitors to these hallowed halls.

I know that all of my colleagues who have had to visit the Office of Attending Physician will join me in thanking Nurse Garlisi for her care and compassion. I congratulate Nurse Garlisi on her years of service and wish her continued happiness and success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SUE ELLIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today the accomplishments of my good friend, Sue Ellis. On September 30, Sue retired from her position as Director of Congressional Relations for Gallaudet University after nearly thirty years of service. During her years at Gallaudet, Sue has held many positions and her list of accomplishments is long.

Sue has been a wonderful asset to Gallaudet through her commitment to furthering the causes of the hearing-impaired community. Under Sue's watch, the University has flourished. Gallaudet has grown from a college to a university—an institution of higher learning led by a hearing-impaired president. Through much of her work with Congress, Sue has helped increase awareness of the importance of Gallaudet University to every community, not just the hearing-impaired.

Personally, Sue has been a very good friend to me and my staff and has encouraged my office to become more involved with the hearing-impaired community in my district. Sue has helped my office hire hearing-impaired interns and full-time staff and we appreciate her support and assistance to make this possible by helping to install the proper technology and arrange sign language classes for my staff and me.

I have also worked closely with Sue in her tireless efforts to organize the Congressional Basketball Game. This fundraising effort has grown from a small event into a tremendous success with national support and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the students at Gallaudet.

Through our many years of working closely with Sue, my office considers her a part of our family. I would like to personally thank her for her dedication to an important issue and her commitment to making our world a better place for all. We wish you all of the best in your retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on October 9, after 6:00 p.m. and on October 10, I was absent from the Chamber. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect that had